

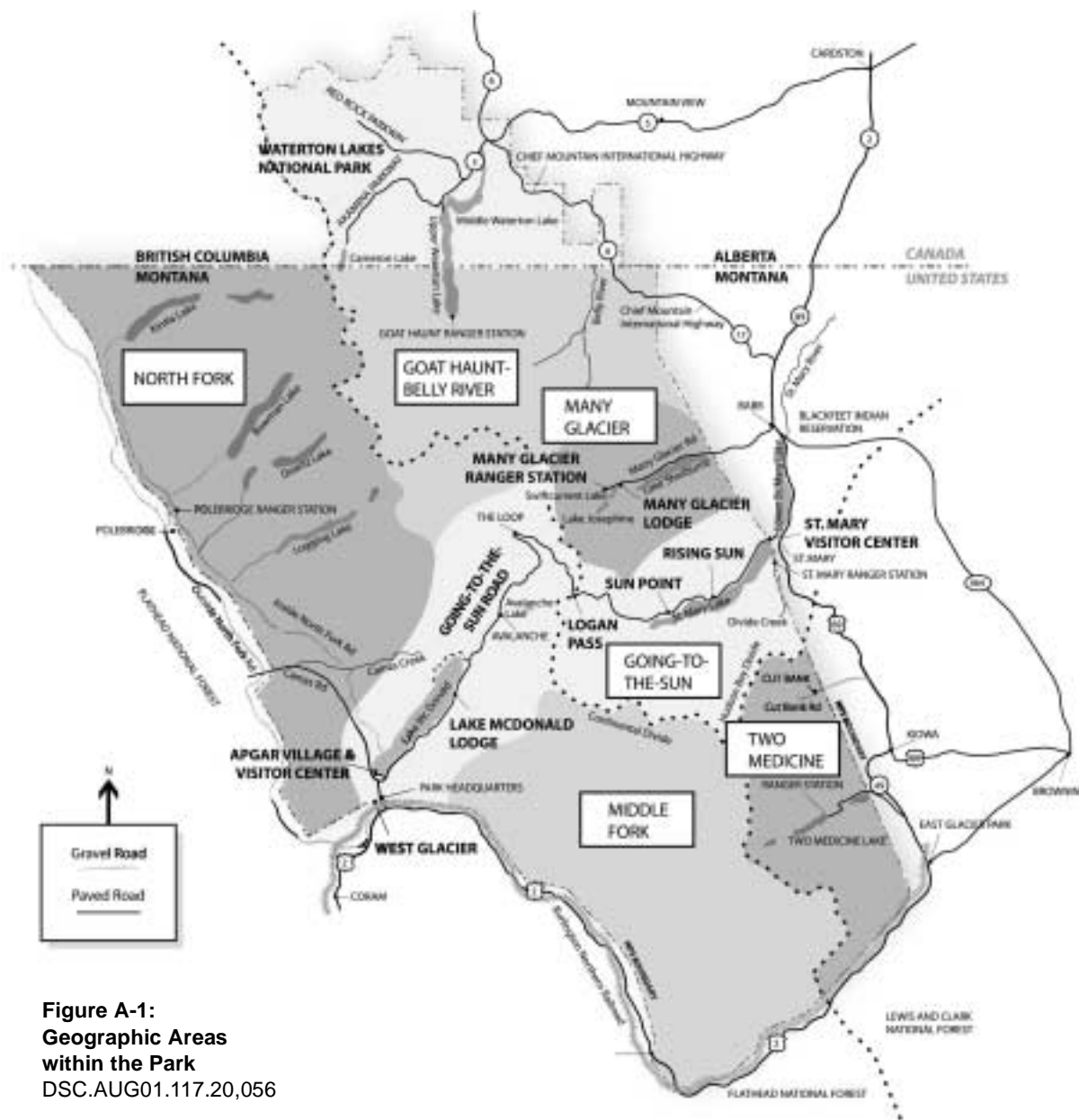
The visitor experience at Glacier is defined by the geographic area, visitor use zone, specific attraction, and type of visitor. In an attempt to create a more structured definition of visitor experience for Glacier, the General Management Plan (GMP) defined four management zones, six geographic areas in which to apply those management zones, and the type of experience that each visitor could potentially have at each location. This appendix summarizes the management zones and geographic areas from the GMP, and will use the same types of experiences outlined there. In addition, key visitor locations will be identified for each geographic area, with the type of experience and/or specific ideas for visitor experience taken from the GMP, as well as from Glacier staff input.

### **Geographic Areas within Glacier National Park**

In the GMP, six areas have been identified within Glacier based on the resources in each area, as well as their geographic location. There is a different management philosophy for each area, and a visitor experience has also been established for each in the GMP. These geographic areas are as follows (see Figure A-1):

- Many Glacier
- Goat Haunt-Belly River
- Going-to-the-Sun Road Corridor
- Two Medicine
- Middle Fork
- North Fork

## Appendix A: Visitor Experience at Glacier



**Figure A-1:**  
Geographic Areas  
within the Park  
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## Visitor Management Zones

While the overriding goal is to maintain and enhance the wild areas and natural beauty of the park, maintenance of traditional visitor services and facilities will continue to be a part of the overall management objectives as well. In light of this, four distinct visitor management zones have been created as part of the GMP, and they are described in terms of the characteristics for which they will be managed. Each of the four zones has a different set of desired resource conditions, visitor experiences, types of management activities, and development.

The following zone descriptions are summarized from the GMP.

**Visitor Service Zone.** The visitor service zone includes developed areas, paved roads, and campgrounds with potable water and sanitation facilities.

**Day Use Zone.** The day use zone includes selected areas generally with specific destinations that visitors could reach easily within a day from visitor use zones.

**Rustic Zone.** The rustic zone includes primitive facilities and campgrounds representative of early western national park development and traditional visitor experiences in them.

**Backcountry Zone.** Management of natural resources in the backcountry zone focuses on protection and (when necessary) restoration of resources and natural processes.

## Type of Experience

There are different types of activities and experiences within each management zone. These have been categorized and described below to provide a better understanding of the visitor experience within each zone.

**Service/Use of Facilities.** Some areas of the park provide services and facilities for visitors such as visitor centers, comfort stations, restaurants, gifts shops, food stores, etc. Visitors stop in these areas for many different reasons.

**Scenic.** Many areas of the park offer beautiful vistas and magnificent scenery for the visitor. Some of the diverse scenery in the park includes crystalline lakes, ice age alpine glacial features, some of the largest and most visible overthrust faults in North

America, and numerous breathtaking views from the Going-to-the-Sun Road. Some of these areas are less accessible and require driving on a remote dirt road, or hiking several miles. Other areas can be seen from a visitor's vehicle while driving on a main roadway. Many visitors have stated that viewing the scenery is the primary reason they visit the park.

**Natural.** Because over 95 percent of the park area has been proposed for wilderness area designation, a nature experience can be found in most areas of the park. This can include wildlife viewing, the opportunity to see many different types of ecosystems in one area, the opportunity for ecological management and research, the opportunity to experience true wilderness areas, and outstanding opportunities for solitude. One does not have to travel far to experience nature in the park.

**Cultural/Historical.** The park lays claim to various cultural and historical resources. Historic structures abound, including hotels and high country chalets, Going-to-the-Sun Road and others. Tribes such as the Blackfoot and Salish-Kootenai use the park as a spiritual place. Glacier is said to have spiritual value for all human beings as a place to nurture, replenish, and restore themselves. The park also chronicles the rich history of prehistoric peoples, American Indians, early explorers, railroad development, and modern use and visitation.

**Recreational.** Recreation is also a major attraction for those visiting the park. Over 743 miles of hiking trails, numerous lakes and rivers for various water sports, modern and primitive campgrounds, picnic areas, and recreational tours provide almost any type of recreational experience that a visitor could want. Recreational experiences can range from guided group tours to unique and solitary backcountry hikes.

**Cooperative.** In addition to the many services and experiences provided in the park, the shared border with Canada creates a unique opportunity for visitors to visit two countries as they share an International Peace Park. Visitors can witness the cooperative management with which both countries operate these parks. This opportunity demonstrates the peace that can be achieved between two nations, especially for those visiting from countries with conflict and strife.

**Interpretive.** Glacier provides many interpretive opportunities through visitor centers, brochures, exhibits, guided walks and talks, signs, and waysides. These opportunities teach the visitor more about the park in terms of history and culture, management, physical characteristics, and other factors that make the park unique. This knowledge can lead to a better understanding of why certain decisions are made within the park, as well as creating a sense of ownership and pride in the park.

### **Visitor Management Zones and Types of Experience for Each Geographic Area and Key Visitor Area within the Park**

Now that the general concepts of visitor experience have been defined, they can be brought together to illustrate specific visitor experiences for each geographic area, as well as key visitor locations that have been identified by the GMP and park staff within those areas. These areas are identified to provide more detail and a clearer understanding of visitor experience throughout the park. It should be noted that the visitor experiences listed for each area are not necessarily what each visitor is *currently* experiencing, but rather, the *objectives* for visitor use and resource conditions throughout the park. The GMP provides more detail about the visitor management zones in each geographic area.



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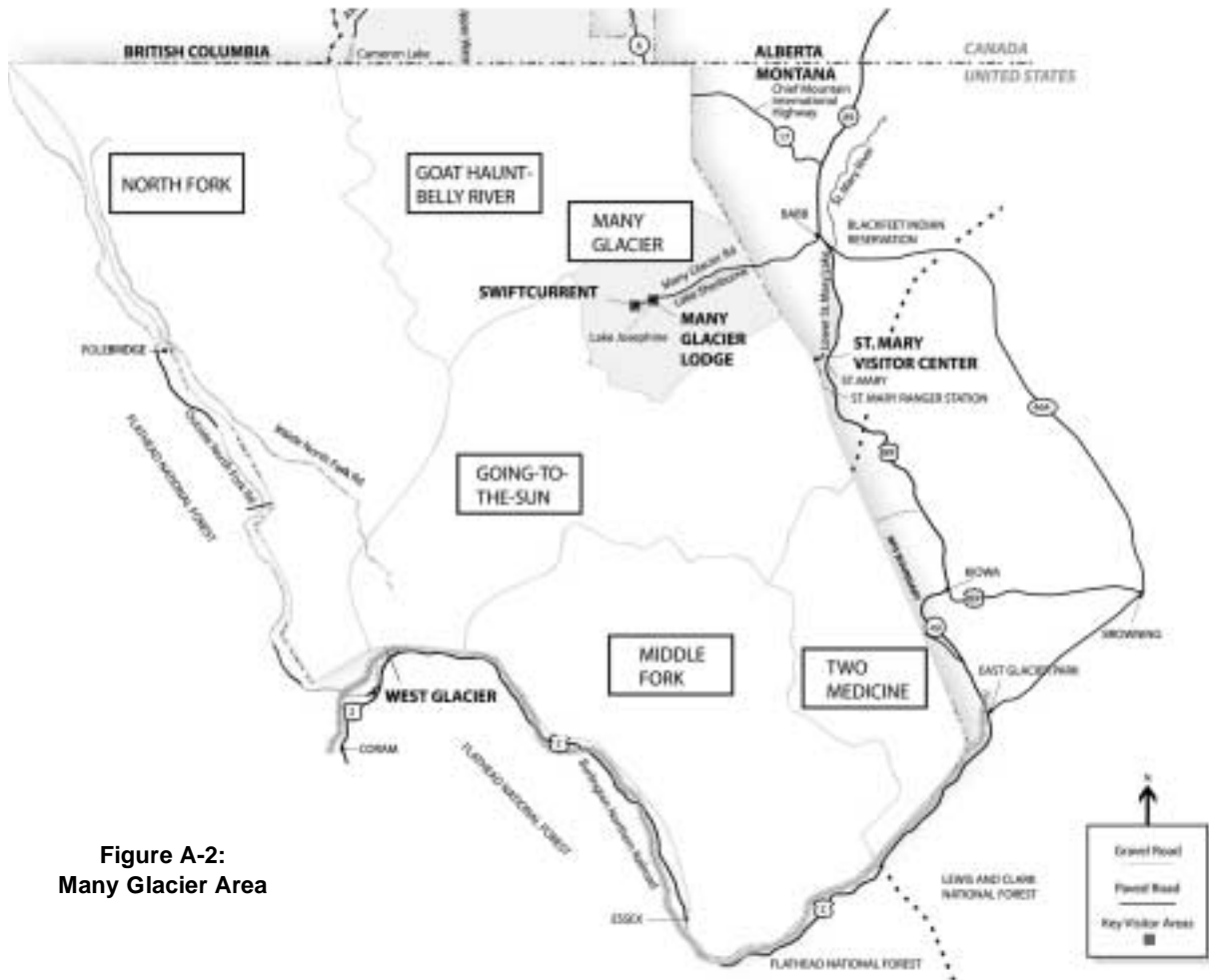
*The management philosophy of the Many Glacier area emphasizes preserving its wild character, while providing visitors with opportunities to experience such activities as wildlife observation, hiking, camping, and sightseeing. Nationally significant historic resources would be preserved and managed to maintain the grand hotel and family lodge traditions.*

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## **Many Glacier**

The Many Glacier area would be managed to prevent degradation of resources, such as high quality wildlife habitat that includes winter range, by minimizing conflicts with visitor use. Swiftcurrent and the Many Glacier Hotel would be managed to provide traditional visitor services and support services for the NPS and concession operations. Some areas would be managed for high levels of visitor service, while the rest would focus on providing greater solitude and fewer visitor encounters. The area would be divided into a visitor service zone and a backcountry zone.



**Figure A-2:  
Many Glacier Area**

## Key Visitor Areas and the Visitor Experience

**Many Glacier Hotel** (visitor service zone)

- Services/Facilities: traditional services (meals, overnight accommodations, store), services for NPS and concession operations
- Cultural/historic: historic structure

**Swiftcurrent Motor Inn** (visitor service zone)

- Services/Facilities: traditional services (meals, overnight accommodations, store)

### **Lake Sherburne** (visitor service zone)

- Scenic
- Recreational: fishing (no road access to shoreline – dam controlled)

### **Swiftcurrent Lake and trails** (day use zone)

- Scenic
- Recreational: hiking, boat tours and rentals, and horseback rides nearby
- Interpretive: guided hikes

### **Josephine Lake and trail** (day use zone)

- Scenic
- Recreational: hiking, boat tours, and horseback rides nearby
- Interpretive: guided hikes

### **Grinnell Lake** (day use zone)

- Scenic
- Recreational: hiking, and horseback rides, backcountry campground just beyond day use zone but at Lake
- Interpretive: guided hikes

### **Cracker Lake** (day use zone)

- Scenic
- Recreational: hiking and horseback rides
- Interpretive: guided hikes and horseback rides

### **Iceberg Lake** (day use zone)

- Scenic
- Recreational: hiking and horseback tours
- Interpretive: guided hikes and exhibits

### **Backcountry** (backcountry zone)

- Scenic
- Natural: wildlife observation, “leave no trace” ethics encouraged
- Recreational: hiking and backcountry camping





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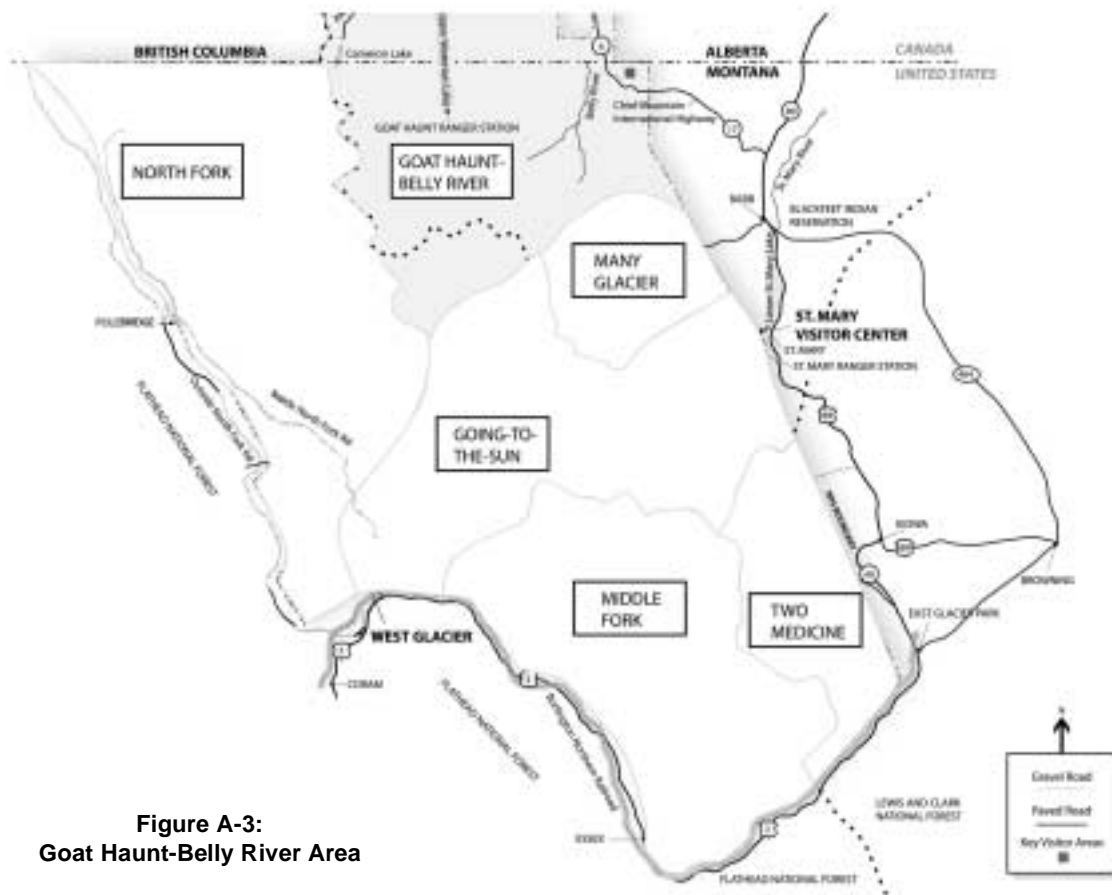
*The management philosophy of the Goat Haunt-Belly River area focuses on its international importance to park visitors, its wild character and wildlife, and the shared natural and cultural resources of adjoining nations. As in other areas of the park, management actions would emphasize cooperation and coordination in the spirit of the International Peace Park, World Heritage Site, and Man and the Biosphere designations.*

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## **Goat Haunt-Belly River**

This area would be managed to protect its resources, such as the pristine character of the area and the integrity of biologic communities. No overnight accommodations or food services would be provided in this area. Boat landings, visitor orientation, information and interpretation services, backcountry access, and administrative facilities would be available at Waterton Townsite (not in project area), at Goat Haunt, and along the Chief Mountain Highway. The International Peace Park and World Heritage Site values would be emphasized as primary interpretive themes because of the northern boundary on the Canadian border. This area would be divided into a visitor service zone and a backcountry zone.



**Figure A-3:**  
Goat Haunt-Belly River Area

### Key Visitor Areas and the Visitor Experience

#### **Goat Haunt** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: comfort station, ranger station, staging area for access to surrounding backcountry
- Scenic
- Cultural/historical: shared cultural resources of the U.S. and Canada, displayed in exhibits
- Recreational: boat tours, hiking, and camping
- Cooperative: customs and immigration entrance point
- Interpretive: kiosks, exhibits, and personal services

### **Chief Mountain Highway** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: staging area for access to surrounding backcountry
- Cultural/historical: Blackfeet history in area
- Cooperative: customs and immigration
- Interpretive: kiosks and exhibits

### **Lakeshore trail** (day use zone)

- Recreational: hiking
- Interpretive: guided hikes

### **Rainbow Falls trail** (day use zone)

- Recreational: hiking
- Interpretive: guided hikes

### **Belly River Ranger Station** (backcountry zone)

- Scenic
- Natural: “leave no trace” ethics encouraged
- Recreational: hiking, horseback riding, and backcountry camping

### **Backcountry** (backcountry zone)

- Scenic
- Natural: “leave no trace” ethics encouraged
- Recreational: hiking, horseback riding, and backcountry camping



Spectacular Waterton Lake, from the Goat Haunt overlook



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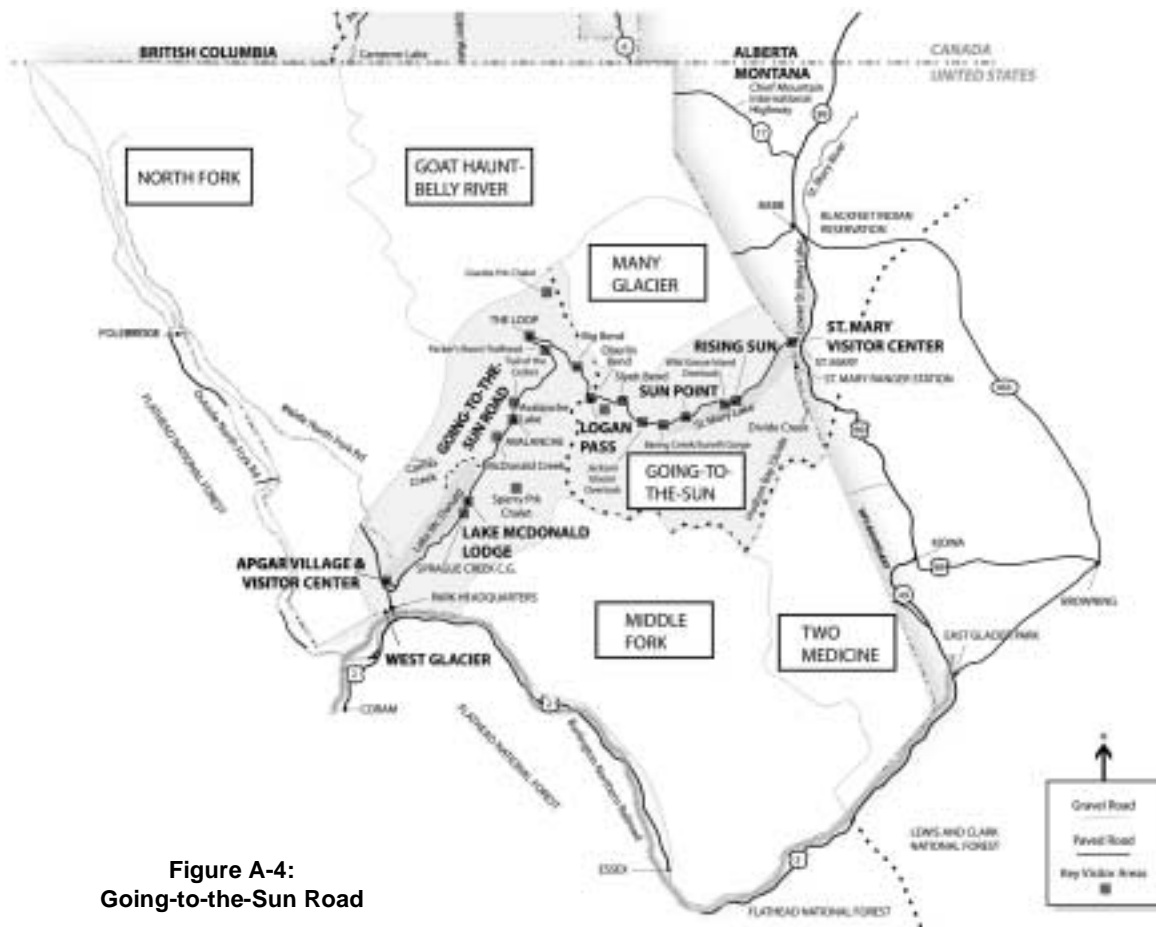
*The Going-to-the-Sun Road corridor would be managed to provide all visitors with an opportunity to experience the scenic majesty and historic character of the park through a wide range of visitor activities, services, and facilities. The cultural significance and traditional use of Going-to-the-Sun Road would be emphasized.*

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### **Going-to-the-Sun-Road Corridor**

This area would be managed to protect the tremendous biological diversity found in this corridor to ensure its overall integrity, which encompasses all park eco-regions. Visitor services would also be emphasized at Apgar Village, Lake McDonald Lodge, Rising Sun, and in the vicinity of St. Mary. Traditional, more rustic accommodations would be provided at Sperry and Granite Park Chalets. Because of its designation as a National Historic Landmark, the Going-to-the-Sun Road would be managed to preserve the historic character so that visitors can enjoy this aspect as well as the magnificent scenery along the roadway. The Going-to-the-Sun Road would be divided into a visitor service zone, a day use zone, and a rustic zone.



**Figure A-4:**  
**Going-to-the-Sun Road**

For many visitors, Going-to-the-Sun Road is the main attraction to the park. A full range of visitor experiences is available on the Road, including magnificent scenic views offered nowhere else in the world.

### Key Visitor Areas and the Visitor Experience

#### **Apgar** (visitor service zone)

- Scenic: vistas across Lake McDonald
- Services/facilities: full range of services, visitor center, heavy use
- Recreation: hiking, camping, picnicking, boat rentals, and horseback riding
- Interpretive: visitor center and exhibits

### ***Lake McDonald*** (visitor service zone)

- Scenic: immensity of lake with mountain backdrop
- Natural: unique cedar hemlock forest
- Recreational: boating and fishing
- Interpretive: interpretation for lake, park-wide wildlife and resources, guided boat tours

### ***Lake McDonald Lodge*** (visitor service zone)

- Services/commercial: full range of services, “traditional rustic hunting lodge experience”
- Cultural/historical: historic structure
- Recreational: hiking, boating, fishing, and horseback riding

### ***Sperry and Granite Park Chalets and access trails*** (day use zone)

- Scenic: vistas
- Natural: forest
- Services/facilities: traditional accommodations (Sperry – full service; Granite – bring your own)
- Cultural/historical: national landmark status
- Recreational: hiking and horseback riding
- Interpretive: guided walks

### ***McDonald Creek*** (day use zone)

- Scenic
- Natural: Upper McDonald Creek, wildlife close by
- Recreational: hiking, horseback riding

### ***Avalanche*** (visitor use zone)

- Recreation: trailhead, camping, and picnicking

### ***Trail of the Cedars*** (visitor service zone)

- Natural: forest
- Recreation: hikes for all levels of users, fully ADA accessible
- Interpretive: guided walks

### ***Avalanche Lake*** (day use zone)

- Scenic: mature scenic hemlock forest
- Natural: forest, lake
- Recreational: hiking and fishing
- Interpretive: guided walks

### ***Packer's Roost Trailhead*** (rustic zone)

- Recreational: hiking, difficult accessibility, horseback riding

### ***The Loop*** (visitor service zone)

- Scenic: Going-to-the-Sun Road driving experience and surrounding area
- Recreational: hiking

### ***Big Bend*** (visitor service zone)

- Scenic: Going-to-the-Sun Road driving experience and surrounding area
- Cultural/historic: goats and construction of the Road

### ***Oberlin Bend*** (visitor service zone)

- Scenic: Going-to-the-Sun Road driving experience and surrounding area
- Natural: mountain goat viewing



Logan Pass Visitor Center offers a comfort station, books, and film, along with interpretive exhibits.

### ***Logan Pass*** (visitor use zone)

- Services/facilities: comfort station, books and film, visitor center
- Scenic: Going-to-the-Sun Road driving experience and surrounding area
- Natural: subalpine area, wildflower displays, mountain goats, bears
- Recreational: hiking
- Interpretive: visitor center, exhibits

### ***Siyeh Bend*** (visitor service zone)

- Scenic: Going-to-the-Sun Road driving experience and surrounding area
- Cultural/historical: construction of the Road
- Recreational: hiking

## Appendix A: Visitor Experience at Glacier

### ***Jackson Glacier Overlook*** (visitor service zone)

- Scenic: major glacial view
- Recreational: hiking (Gunsight Pass trail-head)
- Cultural/historical: Jackson Glacier, Black-foot history



### ***Baring Creek/Sunrift Gorge*** (visitor service zone)

- Natural: unique geologic processes
- Recreational: hiking

### ***Sun Point*** (visitor service)

- Recreational: hiking, horseback riding, nature trail, picnicking



### ***Wild Goose Island pullout*** (visitor service)

- Scenic

### ***Rising Sun*** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: full range of services
- Recreation: camping, boat access, and picnicking
- Interpretive: guided boat tours

### ***St. Mary Lake*** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: lake itself
- Scenic: Front Range
- Natural: Wildlife viewing
- Recreational: boating and fishing



### ***St. Mary Visitor Center*** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: comfort stations, visitor center
- Interpretive: visitor center and exhibits

More spectacular views await the visitor at Wild Goose Island Overlook (top) and St. Mary (center). St. Mary Visitor Center (bottom) offers interpretive exhibits, in addition to a comfort station.





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*The management philosophy of the Two Medicine area focuses on preserving its culturally significant resources, wild character, and important wildlife habitat.*

*Frontcountry and backcountry camping would continue.*

*Traditional visitor services would be available in the Two Medicine Valley.*

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## **Two Medicine**

The Two Medicine area would be managed to protect resources such as the wild character of the area, particularly the area of transition between the plains and the mountains. The area is developed, but it is small and would not provide all services. This area would be divided into a visitor service zone, a rustic zone, and a backcountry zone.

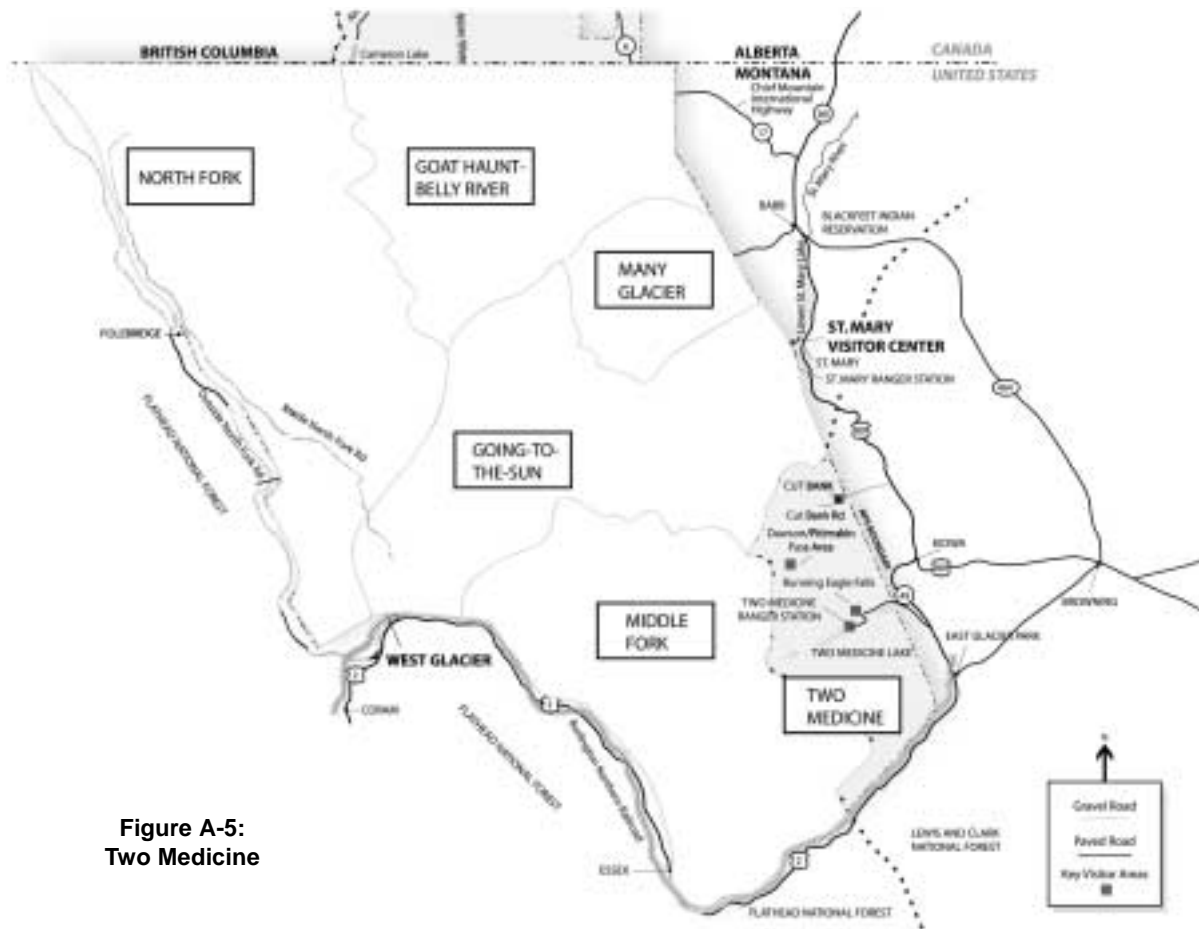


Figure A-5:  
Two Medicine

## Key Visitor Areas and the Visitor Experience

### **Two Medicine** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: range of services available, administrative functions; no over-night accommodations except campground

### **Two Medicine Lake and trails** (day use zone)

- Scenic
- Recreation: hiking, camping, picnicking, boat tours and rentals (ten horsepower engines or less)

***Two Medicine Chalet/camp store*** (visitor service zone)

- Cultural/historical

***Upper Two Medicine Lake*** (day use zone/backcountry zone)

- Scenic
- Recreational: hiking (expansive trail system), camping, and non-motorized boating (no road access – boats must be carried)
- Interpretive: guided hikes, signs, and exhibits

***Lower Two Medicine Lake*** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities
- Recreational: boating

***Cut Bank Ranger Station and campground*** (rustic zone)

- Scenic: “among the least visited yet most beautiful places in the park”
- Recreational: trailhead and camping
- Interpretive

***Running Eagle Falls*** (day use zone)

- Cultural/historical: history of female warrior, Running Eagle
- Recreational: hiking, fully ADA-accessible trail
- Interpretive: guided hikes and exhibits

***Backcountry*** (backcountry zone)

- Natural: “leave no trace” ethics encouraged
- Recreational: hiking, backcountry camping, and horseback riding



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*The management philosophy for the Middle Fork area emphasizes preserving its remote and wild character through a range of primitive visitor experiences. Visitor and administrative facilities would occur only along US Highway 2.*

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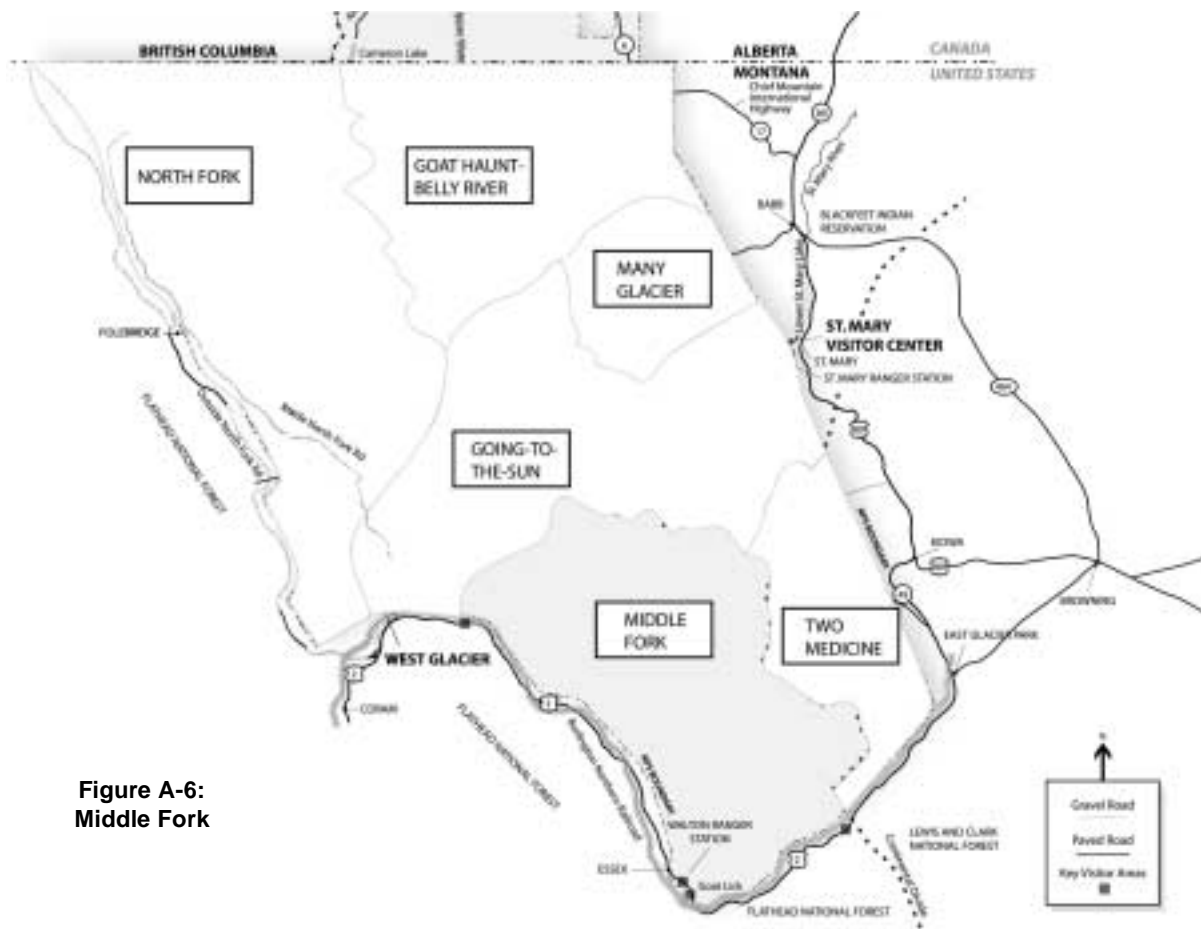
## **Middle Fork**

This area would be managed to preserve the remote and pristine character of its resources. Visitor access and trail facilities would be limited and challenging in most of the area. Developments allowed in the backcountry would include trails, sanitation facilities, hitching posts, primitive signs, patrol cabins, and campsites. Key wildlife areas and travel corridors would be protected and interpreted through cooperation with others where appropriate. The Walton Ranger Station would serve the management and visitor needs of the area. A portion of the backcountry would be managed to allow for camping in undesignated areas, and to provide more opportunities for off-trail travel. This area would be divided into a visitor service zone and a backcountry zone.

## **Key Visitor Areas and the Visitor Experience**

### ***US Highway 2 corridor*** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: information
- Recreational: sightseeing
- Interpretive



**Figure A-6:**  
**Middle Fork**

**Walton Ranger Station** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: information and comfort station
- Recreational: picnicking, hiking, and horseback trailhead
- Interpretive: exhibits

**Goat Lick** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: information
- Scenic
- Natural: wildlife viewing, Wild and Scenic River
- Recreational: hiking and camping, picnicking
- Interpretive: exhibits

**Backcountry** (backcountry zone)

- Natural: “leave no trace” ethics encouraged
- Recreational: hiking, horseback riding, and backcountry camping



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*The management philosophy for the North Fork area would preserve its contribution to the integrity and primitive character of the transboundary watershed. Management actions would reflect the importance of inter-agency and international cooperation. Visitor facilities would be rustic and would preserve a national park quality and style of development that has become increasingly rare. Management actions would preserve that primitive character.*

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## North Fork

This area would be managed to preserve its wild character and the important linkage to the entire North Fork Valley, including the Canadian portion, for wildlife conservation. Commercial development or new commercial activities would not be permitted. Small, primitive auto campgrounds would continue at Kintla Lake, Quartz Creek, Bowman Lake, and Logging Creek. The Inside North Fork Road would remain narrow and unpaved. This area would be divided into a visitor service zone, a rustic zone, and a backcountry zone.

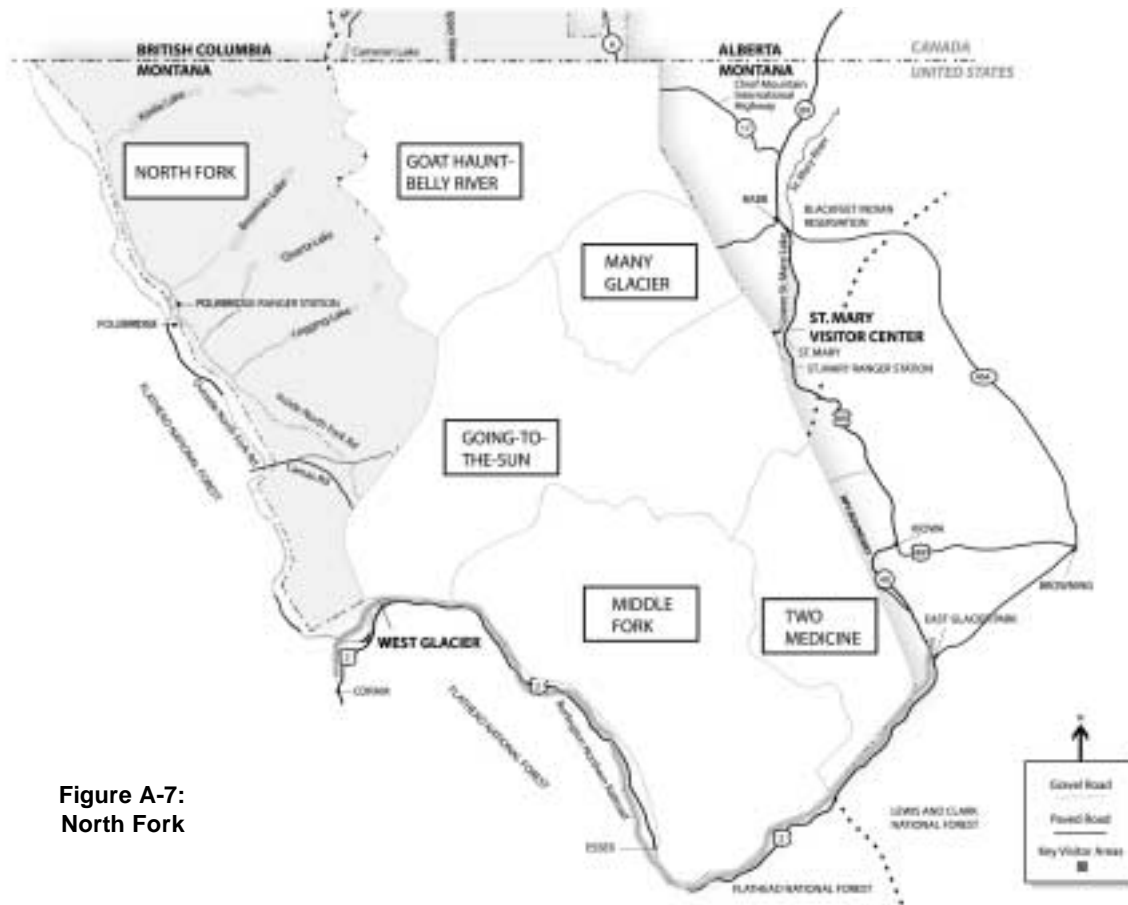


Figure A-7:  
North Fork

### Key Visitor Areas and the Visitor Experience

#### ***Polebridge Ranger Station*** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: comfort station, information
- Interpretive: exhibits

#### ***Kintla Lake*** (rustic zone/backcountry zone)

- Recreational: hiking, camping, and non-motorized boating

#### ***Bowman Lake*** (backcountry zone)

- Recreational: trailheads, camping, picnicking, and boating (ten horsepower engines or less)

## Appendix A: Visitor Experience at Glacier

### ***Roads to Bowman and Kintla Lakes*** (rustic zone)

- Interpretive: exhibits and waysides

### ***Quartz Creek*** (rustic/backcountry zone)

- Recreational: hiking and camping

### ***Logging Creek*** (rustic/backcountry zone)

- Recreational: hiking and camping



Mountains,  
meadows, and wide  
blue skies in the  
North Fork section

### ***Camas Road corridor*** (visitor service zone)

- Services/facilities: information
- Recreational: trailheads
- Interpretive: exhibits

### ***North Fork Road*** (rustic zone)

- Recreational: hiking and bicycling

### ***Backcountry*** (backcountry zone)

- Natural: “leave no trace” ethics encouraged, wildlife viewing, and riparian areas
- Recreational: hiking and backcountry camping